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so many territorial changes to increase the quantity of this kind of illustrative material. There is also a genealogical chart to explain the disputed succession in Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein. Upon the library shelves Professor Andrews's books should be suitable and valuable companions and supplements to A. L. Lowell's erudite discussion upon governments and parties in modern Europe and to Professor Burgess's philosophical treatise upon modern constitutions.

CHARLES H. LEVERMORE.

The Life of Napoleon III. By ARCHIBALD FORBES. (New York : Dodd, Mead and Co. 1898. Pp. viii, 355.)

READERS of current magazine literature have doubtless during the last few years noticed frequent articles upon campaign and war subjects by Mr. Archibald Forbes, the well-known journalist and war-correspondent. This activity in times of peace has culminated in a more ambitious work than Mr. Forbes has hitherto attempted—a life of Napoleon III. In default of a preface from which to obtain a statement of the author's purpose in writing the book we are thrown back on the conclusion arrived at after perusal that it was written for the publishing trade with a view to dollars. There are unmistakable traces of "pot-boiling," notably in the first half of the book: long extracts from one to three pages in length, taken from the writings of Louis Blanc, Kinglake, Blanchard Jerrold, and others, show the ease with which copy can be produced; while the stress laid upon the incidents of boyhood and youth, and the space given to the Strassburg and Boulogne incidents and to the military aspects of the reign, show that Mr. Forbes has given special prominence to the dramatic side of his subject. Instances of padding appear more frequently in the first half of the work; later, when the author is dealing with the period of his own experiences, he depends less on others, and at times brings out interesting bits of first-hand information, as when he recounts the story told him in Zululand by the Prince Imperial of certain happenings in the Sedan campaign.

But for the purpose intended—the creation of a readable and popular biography—Mr. Forbes has not done his work badly. The style is clear and simple, rarely journalistic; the various scenes and situations are pleasantly and graphically presented; the intricacies of diplomacy, when touched upon, are made surprisingly easy, and hard problems are almost entirely eliminated; constitutional questions are passed over rapidly, while personal matters and biographical details are given places of prominence, so that with its thirty-seven illustrations the book may easily hold the attention of the reader for the three or four hours required for its perusal. And the publishers have done their work well: for in the presence of such a heavy book as McCarthy's *Life of Gladstone*,—a very good example of what a publisher should be ashamed of,—it is a pleasure to handle this light, attractive and typographically perfect production.

It may be a mooted point whether a writer of popular history ought or ought not to instruct as well as to entertain his readers; but certainly

there can be no doubt that he ought to have regard for historical proportion and historical truth. In neither of these particulars has Mr. Forbes been strikingly successful: he has sacrificed political and diplomatic issues for those purely domestic and military; has devoted 121 pages to the period of Louis Napoleon's life before 1848, and but 27 pages to that from 1848 to 1852; and while allowing 23 pages to the Mexican campaign he disposes of the internal history of France from 1860 to 1866 in eight, an unfair allowance inasmuch as the Emperor, taking no part at all in the actual movements in Mexico, was involved at every point in the political struggles at home. Equally striking are the omissions. Mr. Forbes passes over in silence many notable events in the history of the Second Republic, without a knowledge of which no understanding of the *coup d'état* is possible—the uprising of June 13th, the Roman expedition, the letter to Ney, the elections of 1850. Failure to note these incidents has led Mr. Forbes to make the astounding statement, as unnecessary as it is untrue, that Louis Napoleon's first acts as president “were to suspend universal suffrage, now that it had served his turn; to shackle the press; to suppress associations of all kinds—in a word to crush the expression of public opinion” (pp. 128–129). In his discussion of the period after the Italian war he omits all mention of the expedition to China and the occupation of Syria, has no place for *Les Cinq* and the growth of the constitutional opposition, knows nothing of the war with the ecclesiastical party in France, and, strangest of all, omits all reference to the elections of 1863, which announced to Europe that Paris could no longer be counted on to support the Emperor.

But it is in connection with his discussion of foreign affairs and diplomacy that Mr. Forbes's most serious omissions are to be noted. In the first place he does not so much as mention the uprising of the Poles and Napoleon's effort to bring about an alliance of England, Austria and France in 1863; consequently he is forced to explain Napoleon's refusal to join England in upholding the treaty of 1852 as due to the latter's rejection of the congress proposal, an explanation both inadequate and misleading. He quotes with unnecessary display the proposals made by Rouher and Prince Napoleon in June and August, 1866, regarding an alliance with Prussia, but by omitting all reference to the popular feeling in France, the hostility of the *Corps Législatif*, the wire-pulling of the two parties—Austrian and Prussian—in the government at Paris, and more noteworthy still by saying nothing whatever of the famous Lavelette circular, he manages to leave an impression regarding Napoleon's share in these intrigues that is not true to fact. The Emperor's diplomacy was bad enough at best, but it does seem unfortunate that a reputable writer should so present his material as to make this diplomacy seem much worse than it was. It is difficult to believe that Mr. Forbes has ever read Sybel, much less Rothan's *La Politique Française en 1866*, for he presents a view of Napoleon that was popular twenty years ago and writes of Benedetti with all the animus of a correspondent of the *London Daily News* in 1870.

But especially does Mr. Forbes fall short in his account of the Hohen-

zollern candidature and the causes of the Franco-Prussian war, for so far as new evidence is concerned he might as well have written just after the war what he has written to-day. He shows no familiarity with Sorel's *Histoire Diplomatique de la Guerre Franco-Allemande* or with *Aus dem Leben Königs Karl von Rumänien*, the former of which suggests while the latter proves that Bismarck saw in the Spanish candidature a pretext for war, which he was determined to use at the first opportunity; and this is the more strange in that Sir Charles Dilke made all the facts known to English readers in the first number of *Cosmopolis* several years ago. Though Mr. Forbes quotes Lebrun's memoirs he does not see their importance as disclosing the chief reason why Bismarck wanted war in 1870; that is, to forestall any attempt of France to ally with Austria and Italy and to engage in war with Prussia in 1871.

These points are sufficient to indicate that while Mr. Forbes has written a readable life of Napoleon III. he has not presented an adequate or reliable study of the character of Napoleon's reign, the nature of his diplomacy, or the causes of his downfall.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.

The Spanish Revolution, 1868-1875. By EDWARD HENRY STROBEL, late Secretary of the U. S. Legation and Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid. (Boston: Small, Maynard and Company. 1898. Pp. 293.)

THIS interesting little book is modestly described by the author as a sketch of an episode in modern Spanish history. In reality, it is a clear and comprehensive parliamentary history of the six turbulent years which began with the expulsion of Isabella II. and ended with the restoration of Alphonso XII. It deals therefore with the interregnum during which Prim was master, with the well-intentioned attempt of Amadeus, with the several experiments in the founding of a republic, and with the reaction that led through a dictatorship to the recall of the Bourbons.

The book has two principal defects. It fails to give any account either of the causes which influenced the kind of public opinion that prevails in Spain, or of the popular movements that determine in the long run the fate of all political schemes. And it plunges into the middle of events without adequate explanation of existing conditions. It assumes, in both particulars, the same knowledge in the reader as in the author concerning the antecedent history of Spain, and the habits, tastes, temper and political traditions of the Spanish people. These defects are however inherent in the author's plan of publishing separately, and as a detached account of one historical episode, matter which was originally written as part of a larger work.

On the other hand, the book has many merits. Its literary qualities are conspicuous. It is written in a strong and lucid style, which is never dull and becomes at times delightfully epigrammatic. The narrative is compact and continuous, and almost epic in its development. And al-